
Who Was St. John?

Excerpt From: E. & L. Mornin: Saints, A Visual History (Eerdmans, 2006)



The brother of James and the youngest of the twelve disciples, John is traditionally identified as the unnamed 'disciple whom Jesus loved' and to whom from the cross he confided care of his mother. He was the only disciple present at the crucifixion. After Jesus' death, he was prominent in the formation of the early Christian Church in Jerusalem and Asia Minor, where he settled at Ephesus. For a time he associated closely with Peter. Having survived persecution (the only disciple to do so), he died at an advanced age, probably in Ephesus, around the end of the first century. He was most likely the author of the fourth gospel, but only reputedly of the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse), which tradition claims he wrote on the Mediterranean island of Patmos, to which he was for a time exiled.

In art John is characteristically depicted as a young, usually beardless, man with long hair. He figures in many scenes of the crucifixion, together with (and sometimes supporting) Jesus' mother. In other portrayals, he is shown holding a book (the gospels), while as an evangelist he is symbolized by the eagle, because of the soaring, sublime style of his writing. (For the same reason he is also known as John the Divine.) A legend tells how he miraculously survived drinking a cup of poison given to him by a pagan priest of Ephesus. This is sometimes commemorated by depicting John holding a goblet from which a snake, or a little dragon, rears its head.

(Featured artwork is a portion of a stained glass window from St. Joseph's Church in Detroit, Michigan.)

More Than a Tour!

St. John's Lutheran Church Today

Written By: Rev. Adam Snook (2014-Current)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once more for visiting St. John's. Whether you've travelled from around the corner or around the world, we have been delighted to welcome you.

Summer tours are only one of the many ministries that make St. John's such a vibrant community. Below are just a few of the wonderful opportunities for gospel work in which we warmly invite you to share:

+ Worship Ministry

St. John's is a lively and vibrant worshiping community. We have a service of scripture on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. During Lent we offer mid-week vesper services; we actively participate in community ecumenical services such as Remembrance Day and Advent; and we work closely with our full communion partner, St. James Anglican Church.

+ Music Ministry

St. John's is blessed with a choir, three handbell groups, a gifted music director, and an abundance of talented members who regularly offer their gifts to God's glory. Choir meets on Thursday evening, and the handbells meet on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We are also blessed to support the musical landscape of our community through a variety of performances throughout the year.

+ Learning Ministry

St. John's offers an interactive Sunday School on Sunday mornings during the school year. Likewise, adults are invited to attend an opportunity for informal education on Tuesday afternoons.

+ Outreach Ministry

St. John's has a quilting group that works to support the efforts of CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief). We hold a food bank Sunday on the third Sunday of every month. We offer assistance to those in need through a discretionary fund, as well as through the cooperative work of the Inter-Church Council of Mahone Bay.



Welcome To St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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It is our sincere joy to welcome you to our church, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, in beautiful Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

At the heart of Mahone Bay's 'three churches', and as a part of the historical streetscape of Mahone Bay, St. John's enjoys a 152 year history as a vital and active part of our community. And although times have certainly changed, much of our interior harkens back to our early history reminiscent of boat-builders, seafarers and faithful Germanic heritage.

We are thrilled to share our story with you!

And so we invite you to take some time to explore our sanctuary, and to meet some of the people who call this building their church home. Should you have any questions, or if a steward isn't on duty, please feel free to visit the parish office in the attached Christian Education Centre (through the doors at the front of the sanctuary).

+ Enjoy Your Visit +

A History of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Written By: Mrs. Elizabeth Ernst

The first church erected in Mahone Bay according to M.B. DesBrisay's "History of the County of Lunenburg", was a Union building commenced July 17, 1833. Four denominations worshipped here in turn - Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists. The Lutheran trustee was Peter Strum.

The Rev. W.W. Bowers, of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland, was called in 1863 and served the large body of Lutherans, most of them in the Mahone Bay area. He began his duties on December 1, 1863.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Mahone Bay was first fully organized as a District Congregation on June 6, 1864, when the following persons were chosen as officers of the church: Nathan Kedy, Thomas Ernst (my great-great grandfather), Phillip Aulenbach, Frederick Ernst, and James Hiltz.

On October 20, 1866, a motion was made, quoting from the minutes, "to proceed to erect a new Lutheran Church building in Mahone Bay". The motion was carried unanimously and it was noted that "money already collected for such an endeavour was \$1,263.00."

Also on the same date, a new Compact was entered into as follows:

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being adherents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church do agree to write ourselves together as a distinct Congregation to be called the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mahone Bay, Lunenburg Col, Nova Scotia, and do agree to call the Rev. W.W. Bowers, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland... We bind ourselves to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church... We obligate ourselves to pay for the yearly support of our Pastor the sums set opposite our respective names in this book."

To which agreement are appended the names of Phillip Aulenbach and thirty-six others, each guaranteeing the sum of \$32.40, totalling \$1,166.40 for the year!

The original church building was erected “near to the water’s edge and was 38 feet by 50 feet with a 20 foot post, a gallery, and a graceful spire, furnished with a bell.”

On October 3, 1870, the members of Mahone Bay and vicinity met and appointed the Rev. W.W. Bowers, Chairman, and David Ernst, Secretary. By a 2/3 vote, the meeting resolved to adopt a Constitution of 10 Articles. The Council working with Pastor Bowers was composed of Phillip Aulenbach, George Ernst, Thomas Ernst, Nathaniel Ernst, Frederick Ernst, Stephen Schlagenweid, Alexander Hamm, Harry Ernst, Josiah Bruhm, Nathan Kedy, John Ernst, and Alexander Lantz.

On September 8, 1873, a Congregational meeting agreed on the following resolution:

“That the congregation will join the Pittsburgh Synod and thereby the General Conference, and that until a new English Minister arrives, the Lutheran Church in Mahone Bay shall be open every Sunday morning and evening for Prayer Meetings.”

In 1876 the Rev. J.A. Scheffer was called from Delmont Charge, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Pastor Scheffer began his ministry on July 16, 1876. He was the first English-speaking pastor and the first to minister alone to all the needs of the parish. During his ministry the records show an increase from 32 Communicants in 1876 to 346 in 1885!

In 1876 the first Church records were kept in Mahone Bay. Previously statistics were recorded in Lunenburg with their church records.

The first baptism was that of Minnie Maude Halimore on July 29, 1876, infant daughter of William and Charlotte (Hirtle) Halimore. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. David Hirtle.

The first marriage was solemnized on March 3, 1877, and joined in Holy Matrimony James Alvin Eisenhower, Newburn, and Eliza Jane Minnich, Petite Riviere.

The Rev. D. Luther Roth wrote the following in his “History of the Lutheran Church in Nova Scotia”:

“On Christmas evening, 1876, the Rev. Mr. Scheffer with his Sunday School at Mahone Bay under the guidance of Rev. Mr. Roth, held a Christmas Festival with addresses from the Clergy of Conference, excellent music, and a finely illuminated and tastefully

decorated Christmas tree, as far as we know the first in any Church in the Province. The Rev. Mr. Roth has cause to remember it for his house narrowly escaped being burned to the ground while he was with his wife attending upon it!”

The first Catechetical Class numbered 22 members and was confirmed on April 1, 1877. On January 1, 1890, the congregation voted to build a parsonage not to exceed the cost of \$1,500.00, and was completed before the end of the Rev. Jacob Maurers’ ministry in St. John’s Parish.

On January 1, 1903, the annual congregational meeting voted \$4,000.00 for renovating and improving the church and building a Sunday School area in connection with it.

The following August, the cornerstone was laid. The cornerstone contained the elements of the Lord’s Supper, coins - all bearing the image of King Edward VII (1902), the Constitution and Charter of the Congregation, Church Almanac of 1903, a Church Book, The Lutheran (a magazine of the church), the Signal, and the Progress-Enterprise.

By December 26, 1912, the mortgage was paid off and a month later St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church held Jubilee Services.

On January 3, 1926, the pipe organ was purchased for \$5,000.00 and was dedicated with Miss Gladys Conrad at the console. Sermons were by the Rev. F.L. Wartzell, the Rev. George P. Endy, and the Rev. George Innis.

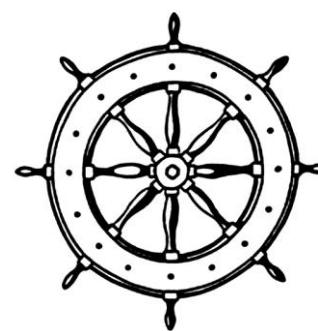
In 1947, organ chimes were dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Henry and Eleanor Hirtle. The Chimes were donated by their children.

Other significant dates in the history of St. John’s include the year of 1955, when the church parking lot was constructed. In 1965 and 1970 new additions to the Sunday School were completed. In 1982 the Sacristy of the church was renovated in memory of Wilbert and Bessie Ernst. The Sunday School hall was remodelled in the same year thanks to a bequest from Gladys Nellie Maude Ernst. In 1986 the chimes were electronically connected to speakers in the steeple and dedicated in memory of Arthur Ernst. In 1991, the Mahone Bay Parish, consisting of four congregations, was dissolved by a duly constituted vote of the congregation of St. John’s. The congregation once again became a single and

distinct congregation on its own. In 2010 the Sunday School, offices, and kitchen were renovated and a new side entry with a wheelchair lift was built.

The Ship’s Wheel as a Christian Symbol in St. John’s Lutheran Church

Written by: Rev. Stephen Kristenson (2007-2014)



The Greek word for fish, ΙΧΘΥΣ, pronounced ichthus, was used as a symbol for Christians who were under persecution to identify each other as they drew the fish symbol in various places.

The letters of the word form an acrostic:

Ιησους	(Jesus)
Χριστος	(Christ)
Θεου	(Of God)
Υιου	([the] Son)
Σωτηρα	(Saviour)

You can find each of these letters in the spokes and rim of the ship’s wheels which adorn the trusses in the ceiling.

Self-Guided Stained Glass Window Tour of St. John’s Lutheran Church

Written by: Rev. Adam Snook (2014-Current)

St. John’s has been blessed with the sacred creative work of many artists. Here written is a self-guided tour of the stained glass art that adorn our worship space.

WINDOWS (Moving Clockwise From Front)

#1 – Chancel Windows (Oldest Windows)

- The Baptism Window (Galatians 3:19-29)
- The Good Shepherd Window (John 10:1-21)
- St. John the Evangelist (Matthew 20:23)
- The Communion Window (Matt 26:26-30)

- #2 – The Christmas Window (1991)
Unto Us A Child Is Born.
(Isaiah 9:6a)
- #3 – Jesus Calms The Storm Window (1995)
Peace Be Still.
(Mark 4:35-41)
- #4 – The Parable Of The Sower (1996)
A Sower Went Out To Sow
(Matthew 13)
- #5 - The Discipleship Window (1998)
Follow We
(Matthew 9:9-13)
- #6 – Tree Of Life Window (2012)
For The Healing Of The Nations
(Revelation 22:2)
- #7 – The Throne Of God Window (1988)
*Located above the Narthex door.
(Psalm 103)
- #8 – The Pentecost Window (2011)
All Were Filled With The Holy Spirit
(Acts 2)
- #9 – The Baptism of Jesus Window (2005)
This is my Beloved Son
(Matthew 3:13-17)
- #10 – The Creation Window (1995)
God Created the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1 – 2:4a)
- #11 – The LOVE Window
No Greater Love Has Any Man
(John 15:1-17)
- #12 – The Resurrection Window (1990)
He Is Risen
(Luke 24:1-12)
- #13 – The Commissioning Of The Disciples Window (1990)
I Am With You Always
(Matthew 28:16-20)
- #14 – The Children’s Window
Let The Little Children Come To Me
(Matthew 19:13-15)
- #15 – The Luther Rose Window (2013)
How Can I Understand Unless Someone Guides Me (Side Door)
(Acts 8:26-40)

Each of our windows has been inspired by scripture. The pertinent verses have been outlined on this self-guided tour. **TIP:** To enrich your experience and to add greater depth to these windows, we invite you to use a bible (available in the pews) to follow along with scripture.